

Surface Foreman Course Description

The Mineral Mine Safety Act of Virginia requires that a mine foreman be employed at any mineral mine where three or more persons work during any part of a 24-hour period (§45.1-161.292:29).

The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Division of Mineral Mining offers two designations for Surface Foreman certification: Mineral Mining and Open Pit. The Surface Foreman Open Pit is designed for a mine foreman who will not be working with or be responsible for drilling and blasting activities on the mine site. DMM requires that all individuals seeking surface foreman certification must meet the following criteria (Certification Requirements for Mineral Miners 4VAC25-35-10; 4VAC25-35-20):

Surface Foreman:

1. Minimum five years mining experience, at least one year of which was at a surface mine.

- 2 years work credit for Associate Degree in Mining Technology or Civil Technology.

- 3 years work credit for Bachelor Degree in Mining Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mining Technology, Civil Technology, or Geology.

2. Proper completion of Board of Mineral Mining Examiners Application Form (BMME-1).
3. Proper completion of Board of Mineral Mining Examiners Work Experience Form (BMME-2).
4. Submission of a copy of current MSHA 5000-23, showing First Aid review or a copy of a current first aid card or higher.
5. Submission of \$10 examination fee with BMME-1 and BMME-2 at least five working days before the exam, in the form of a check or money order, payable to the Treasurer of Virginia.
6. Passing the BMME Surface Foreman exam, by scoring at least 85% on each of 5 parts (85% on 4 parts for Surface Foreman Open Pit).

Course Objective

This 32-hour course provides practical information related to how state mining laws and regulations are applied to various mineral mining activities. The first eight hours of the course deal with First Aid training. The rest of the course prepares the applicants to assume responsibility for compliance with law and regulations, resolving legal issues, supervision, ensuring the safety and health of workers, and managing environmental issues.

The certified foreman plays a key role in the overall performance of the mine from the standpoint of both safety and production. The BMME-certified foreman assumes certain responsibilities to both the employer and mine employees by ensuring that daily production activities are carried out in a safe



manner. The examination is given at the end of the course.

Course Material

The Surface Foreman's Certification Study Guide will be provided, as well as copies of Mineral Mine Safety Laws of Virginia, Safety and Health Regulations for Mineral Mining, and First Aid booklets.

Renewal Course

Surface Foreman Certification is required to be renewed every 5 years (4VAC25-35-40). The Board of Mineral Mining Examiners allows a certificate holder to take the appropriate certification renewal course or challenge the renewal examination.

The eight-hour renewal course provides a refresher on the Mineral Mine Safety Act of Virginia and the Safety and Health Regulations for Mineral Mining. This course is for persons already certified and working as foremen on a mineral mining site.



Certification Examination Content

The Surface Foreman's Certification Examination will consist of 5 parts covering the following:

1. First Aid (20 questions).
2. Foremanship/Foreman Responsibilities (20 questions).
3. Operational Safety and Reclamation (50 questions).
4. Safety Training and Record keeping (20 questions).
5. Drilling/Blasting (20 questions)
- *not required for Surface ☐ Foreman Open Pit Certification.*

To obtain copies of applications BMME-1, BMME-2, and BMME-3 call DMM (434) 951-6310, or download from DMM website:
<http://www.mme.state.va.us/Dmm/>



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